

DATE

SECRET

USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File

TO :

FROM :

ACTION:

INFO :

IN 96801

HOLD FOR:

T.M.

FILE

INFO 25X1A

CITE

SECRET 231701Z CITE [REDACTED] 6690

SUBJ: AIRLIFT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

REF: [REDACTED] 5704

FM [REDACTED]

1. THE TEST FORCE IS APPROACHING THE FINAL PHASE OF THE SP-71 CAT II TESTS, DURING WHICH A SERIES OF MULTIPLE REFUELED, LONG RANGE, OPERATIONAL SORTIES WILL BE ATTEMPTED DURING A 60 DAY SPAN, BEGINNING 9 JAN 67.

2. PAST EXPERIENCE WITH LONG-STRAIGHT-LEGS, AWAY FROM HOME, HAS PROVEN TO BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL. UNPLANNED LANDINGS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AT EGLIN, MCCOY, CARSWELL AND KIRTLAND.

3. IN EACH INSTANCE, UPON NOTIFICATION, A WILD SCRAMBLE ENSUED AT EDWARDS TO TRY TO LINE UP ADEQUATE AIR TRANSPORTATION TO RAPIDLY DEPLOY A PROPERLY REQUIPPED RECOVERY FORCE. OTHER THAN EGLIN, WHERE AN ADP CREW WAS ALREADY ON STATION WITH 2005 IN THE CLIMATIC

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S E C R E T

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LABORATORY, RECOVERIES HAVE BEEN TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE - BOTH FROM AN OPERATIONAL AS WELL AS SECURITY STANDPOINT.

25X1A 4. AVERAGE RECOVERY TIMES HAVE BEEN APPROX ONE WEEK FOR THE AIR VEHICLES, WITH AN ADDED TEN DAYS TO SURFACE TRANSPORT AGE AND PARTS BACK TO [REDACTED] OPERATIONALLY, THE LOSS OF DESPERATELY NEEDED AIR VEHICLE AVAILABILITY TO CONCLUDE CAT II IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT THE DELAY IN AGE RETURN (ALREADY NOT ABUNDANT) IS REALLY A BOTTLENECK.

25X1A 5. FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT, THE CONTRAST IN THE "FIRST CLASS" RECOVERY ALREADY DEMONSTRATED SEVERAL TIMES [REDACTED] COMPARED TO 25X1A THE POOR COUSIN, BEG, BORROW AND STEAL APPROACH FORCED UPON EDWARDS (DISPLAYED AT AN IDENTICAL RECOVERY BASE IN SUCCESSIVE WEEKS, BY FOLKS PRESUMABLY FROM THE SAME AIR PATCH) IS ALMOST A JOKE.

25X1A 6. [REDACTED] BOTH APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THE ODDS ON GETTING A C-141 OR C-130B FOR RAMP ALERT AT EDWARDS ARE PRACTICALLY NIL BECAUSE OF SEA COMMITMENTS. HOWEVER, SOME ALTERNATE SCHEME OF A GUARANTEED, ON-CALL, RAPID (6 HOUR) RESPONSE OF A C-141 OR 130B MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SET UP FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD (SAY 60 DAYS). THE ONLY PREREQUISITE FOR AIRLIFT IS THAT IT BE AN "EMPTY" BIRD, CAPABLE OF CARRYING TOTAL RECOVERY LOAD TO AND FROM THE RECOVERY BASE IN ONE TRIP.

7. WE NEED ASSISTANCE IN A HURRY. CAN YOU HELP?

S E C R E T TOP 231743Z DEC 66